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aux·il·ia·ry  Audio Help [awg-zil-yuh-ree, -zil-uh-] Pronunciation Key - Show IPA

Pronunciation adjective, noun, plural -ries.

-adjective

1. additional; supplementary; reserve: *an auxiliary police force.*
2. used as a substitute or reserve in case of need: *The hospital has an auxiliary power system in case of a blackout.*
3. (of a boat) having an engine that can be used to supplement the sails: *an auxiliary yawl.*
4. giving support; serving as an aid; helpful: *The mind and emotions are auxiliary to each other. Passion is auxiliary to art.*

-noun

5. a person or thing that gives aid of any kind; helper.
6. an organization allied with, but subsidiary to, a main body of restricted membership, esp. one composed of members' relatives: *The men's club and the ladies' auxiliary were merged into one organization.*
7. AUXILIARY VERB.
8. auxiliaries, foreign troops in the service of a nation at war.
9. *Navy.* a naval vessel designed for other than combat purposes, as a tug, supply ship, or transport.
10. *Nautical.* a sailing vessel carrying an auxiliary propulsion engine or engines.

[Origin: 1595-1605; < L *auxiliārius* assisting, aiding, helping, equiv. to *auxilium*) aid, help (*aux(us)* increased, augmented (ptp. of *augēre*: *aug-*increase + *-sus*, var. of *-tus* ptp. suffix) + *-ilium* n. suffix) + *-ārius* -ARY]

---Synonyms 2. backup, ancillary, secondary. 5. aide, ally, assistant; help.

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